

REMARKS

Preliminary Matters:

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority and receipt of the priority document in the National Stage application. Further, it is noted with appreciation that the Examiner has considered the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 12, 2006. Finally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed concurrently with the application.

Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the specification for not conforming with U.S. Patent practice. Applicant has amended the specification to include the appropriate titles.

Disposition of Claims:

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application and have been rejected. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein. Claims 6 and 7 have been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention. It is submitted that the above amendment to claim 2 overcomes this rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Janke (U.S. Patent No. 3,827,600). Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new claims 6 and 7 which respectively correspond to claims 4 and 5 written in independent form in a way that addresses the § 112 (second paragraph) rejections.

In view of the above amendments to the claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art:

1. Claim 1 as presently amended is directed to an integrated dispenser device 1, in particular for a pivotable door of a dishwasher, comprising a first dispenser 5, 6 for a washing agent and a second dispenser 4 for a rinse agent.

The integrated dispenser device 1 is provided with an electrically controlled actuator 20, 21 which is coupled to the first dispenser 5, 6 and the second dispenser 4.

The arrangement is such that in an operating cycle a first excitation of the actuator 20, 21 causes the activation of the first dispenser 5, 6, to dispense the washing agent, and a second subsequent excitation of the actuator 20, 21 causes the activation of the second dispenser 4, for dispensing the rinse agent.

The actuator 20, 21 is coupled to the second dispenser 4 by means of a transmission mechanism 22, 23 which includes a pivotable interconnecting element 23, which has one end portion which is pivoted directly onto a movable control member 18 of the second dispenser 4. Said pivotal interconnecting element 23 is arranged to make said mechanism inoperative when the door of the appliance is open, and to render said mechanism operative after a first excitation of the actuator 20, 21 once the said door is closed.

2. Janke discloses a dispensing device 10 for a door 15 of a dishwasher, comprising a first dispenser 32 and a second dispenser 16.

The dispensing device 10 is provided with an electrically controlled actuator 50 which is coupled to the first dispenser 32 and the second dispenser 16.

The arrangement is such that in an operating cycle a first excitation of the actuator 50 causes an activation of the first dispenser 32, to dispense a washing agent. Thereafter, the second dispenser 16 is activated, to dispense a rinse agent, when the actuator is deexcited or de-energized (col. 4, line 65 to col. 5, line 6).

Thus, in the dispenser device of Janke the actuator 50 remains energised for all the time elapsing between the dispensing of the washing agent and the dispensing of the rinse agent, with a correspondingly prolonged power consumption.

In the dispensing device according to claim 1 as presently amended a first excitation pulse to the actuator causes the dispensing of the washing agent, and a second, subsequent excitation pulse causes the dispensing of the rinse agent. Thus, between the end of the first excitation and the beginning of the second excitation the actuator remains de-energised, with a corresponding appreciable energy saving.

3. In the dispenser device of Janke the actuator 50 is coupled to the second dispenser 16 by means of a transmission mechanism which is formed of a vertically translatable plunger 51 and a vertically translatable valve stem 28, which are connected with each other at 52 (Figures 4 and 5).

Contrary to the Examiner's allegation, the transmission mechanism which in Janke couples the actuator 50 to the second dispenser 16 does not include the pivotal arm 45, which is instead part of the mechanism coupling the actuator 50 to the first dispenser 32.

Thus, Janke discloses neither a dispenser device wherein the transmission mechanism between the actuator and the second dispenser includes a pivotal interconnecting member, nor an arrangement wherein a pivotal interconnecting member has one end pivoted directly onto a movable member of said second dispenser, nor an arrangement wherein a pivotal interconnecting member or element is arranged to make said transmission mechanism inoperative when the door of the appliance is open and to render said mechanism operative after a first excitation of the actuator once the dishwasher door is closed.

4. In view of the above it is believed that the integrated dispenser device according to claim 1 as presently amended is neither anticipated, nor even remotely suggested by the references of record.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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